GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:674
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRES
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facilities of Medical Termination of Pregnancy are not available at many Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide such facilities at all the centres and to check illegal abortions by private clinics?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) The facilities of Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) are not available at some of the Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres due to shortage of manpower and Operation Theatres/Equipments.

(b) Under Reproductive and Child Health Programme, following steps are being taken to provide facilities:

+ MTP equipments are being procured centrally & provided to CHC, PHCs whenever required through their respective medical store depot (MSDs).

+ Government of India is assisting the States/UTs to engaging the doctors trained in MTP techniques (safe motherhood consultants) to visit the CHC and PHC once a week or at least once a fortnight on a fixed day for performing MTPsThese doctors are paid Rs.500/- per day visit.
+ Karnataka, Mizoram & U.P. have requested for provision of SM consultants to be posted to PHCs on a monthly basis as they face problems in hiring consultants willing to visit remote PHCs on a regular basis. The concept has been rethought upon.
+ MTP equipments & free training in MTP technique will be provided to recognized. MTP centres in the Non-government sector.
+ NIHFW has identified 238 institutions for MTP specialized skill training.

The MTP Act 1971 and Rules 1975 specify the circumstances and place where termination of pregnancy can be done, the qualifications, experience and training of personnel who can conduct the termination of pregnancy, conditions for approving the place for medical termination of pregnancy and various reporting/recording procedures with regard to the termination of pregnancy. The amendments proposed in the MNP Act 1971 call for rigorous imprisonment in case of private clinics who violate the MTP Act.